

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/AGR:PJBYRNES
APPROVED BY IO:RLBARRY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 139878

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, WFC, UN

SUBJECT: UFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 138058

1. BANGLADESH MINISTER HUMAYUN KABIR VISITED DEPARTMENT
JUNE 1 AT REQUEST IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARRY.
BARRY POINTED OUT HE WISHED TO RESPOND TO AMBASSADOR
SIDDIGI'S EARLIER QUERY TO DEPARTMENT (NEA) ON BANGLADESHI
CANDIDATE FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH AS SITE OF PROPOSED
CENTER ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT. USING POINTS CON-
TAINED PARA 1 REFTTEL, BARRY REITERATED CONTINUED STRONG
U.S. SUPPORT FOR WILLIAMS AS U.S. CANDIDATE FOR WFC. HE
ADDED THAT IN U.S. VIEW FOOD SECTOR PRESENTS AN IDEAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR A BREAKTHROUGH ON A CENTRAL NORTH/SOUTH
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ISSUE AND THUS IS RECEIVING TOP PRIORITY IN USG. U.S. IS
SUPPORTING ATTACK ON HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION THROUGH A
VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF IS ESTAB-
LISHING A HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATION-
AL HUNGER TO MOBILIZE GREATER SUPPORT FOR U.S. EFFORTS TO
ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS. AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFC,
WILLIAMS WOULD NOT ONLY GIVE STRONG LEADERSHIP TO THE

COUNCIL, BUT ALSO PROVIDE BALANCE TO A BUREAU WHICH

CURRENTLY HAS DEVELOPING COUNTRY NATIONALS OCCUPYING
PRESIDENCY AND ALL THREE VICE PRESIDENTIAL POSITIONS.
U.S. LEADERSHIP IN WFC IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN ASSURING
CONTINUED STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. INITIA-
TIVES IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FIELD.

2. BARRY NOTED THAT WILLIAMS WOULD PLAN TO APPOINT A
DEPUTY FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD IF SELECTED BY SYG AND
THAT HE HAD INDICATED TO US THAT HE WOULD GIVE AHMED
EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION.

3. NOTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 2 STATEMENT ON HEALTH
WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, KABIR
RECOGNIZED PRESIDENT'S STRONG INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT
AND FOOD. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT U.S. VIEWS TO HIS
GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY. HE ASKED WHEN SYG IS EXPECTED TO
DECIDE ON WFC POST AND WAS TOLD THAT A DECISION WOULD
HAVE TO BE MADE BEFORE PRESENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEAVES
AT END OF JUNE.

4. ON THE PROPOSED CENTER, KABIR WAS INFORMED THAT THE
UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
WOULD SUPPORT BANGLADESH (ONLY OFFER ON TABLE) AS THE
SITE OF THE CENTER WHEN COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
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DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KUALA
LUMPUR, JUNE 14-23.

5. KABIR THEN RAISED THE BANGLADESH INTEREST IN A
SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT AND ASKED FOR U.S. SUPPORT IN THE
UNGA SHOULD REGIONAL CONSULTATION NOT RESULT IN A CON-
SENSUS ON AN ASIAN SLATE. BARRY REMINDED KABIR OF THE
U.S. PRACTICE ON MATTERS OF THIS TYPE AND ENCOURAGED
CONTINUED EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE REGION,
BUT NOTED THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO WORK WITH BANGLADESH
SHOULD IT BE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL.

6. IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES, AMBASSADOR YOUNG MAY WISH TO
TOUCH ON THE ABOVE POINTS WITH SYG.

7. FOR MANILA: TANCO URGED US TO MAKE THIS APPROACH TO
BANGLADESH. SHOULD HE CONTACT EMBASSY TO ASK WHAT WE HAVE
DONE FURTHER TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH BARRY, YOU SHOULD
ADVISE HIM OF THE NATURE OF OUR APPROACH. WE MAY ALSO
MAKE SIMILAR APPROACHES TO WFC MEMBERS PRIOR TO MEXICO
CITY MEETING. CHRISTOPHER

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